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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE INDIANAPOLIS IN  
630 AM EST THU NOV 21 2013

THIS WEEK IS WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS WEEK IN INDIANA.

THE WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR INDIANA THIS WINTER FAVORS NEAR NORMAL CONDITIONS WITH PERIODS OF COLD AS WELL AS MILD TEMPERATURES. ALSO SNOW...RAIN AND EVEN SOME ICE STORMS ARE A GOOD BET.

WHATEVER WEATHER OCCURS...EVERYONE MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY. HERE ARE TYPICAL WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS IN INDIANA.

IN MID-WINTER ACROSS INDIANA...HIGH TEMPERATURES AVERAGE BETWEEN 25 AND 35 WHILE LOWS AVERAGE BETWEEN 15 AND 25. RECORD TEMPERATURES ARE BELOW ZERO. SNOWFALL RANGES FROM 15 INCHES IN THE SOUTH TO OVER 30 INCHES IN THE NORTH WHILE LOCATIONS NEAR LAKE MICHIGAN OFTEN SEE MORE THAN 60 INCHES OF SNOW.

YOU CAN EXPECT THE WEATHER TO BE QUITE VARIABLE WITH SOME MILD AND VERY COLD SPELLS. FREQUENT WEATHER SYSTEMS MAY BE COMMON ...OCCASIONALLY WITH HEAVY RAIN. MINOR SNOW AND ICE EVENTS ARE LIKELY. A BIG SNOW STORM...BIG ICE STORM OR MAJOR FLOOD IS ALWAYS A POSSIBILITY. TORNADOES MAY EVEN OCCUR.

IN ADDITION TO COLD TEMPERATURES BEING THE NORM...WIND CHILL IS ALMOST ALWAYS PRESENT...AND CAN BE DANGEROUS. WIND CHILL IS THE TEMPERATURE IT FEELS LIKE OUTSIDE DUE TO THE WIND CARRYING HEAT AWAY FROM YOUR BODY. AIR TEMPERATURES NEAR ZERO AND WINDS TO 20 MPH CREATE WIND CHILLS TO 20 BELOW ZERO LEADING TO FROSTBITE IN 30 MINUTES.

EXTREMELY COLD CONDITIONS CAN CAUSE A NUMBER OF HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS INCLUDING FROSTBITE...HYPOTHERMIA...AND CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING AND FIRES (OFTEN CAUSED BY ALTERNATE HEATING SOURCES). TAKING PREVENTIVE ACTION IS YOUR BEST DEFENSE.

- DRESS IN SEVERAL LAYERS OF LIGHTWEIGHT CLOTHING WHICH KEEPS YOU WARMER THAN A SINGLE HEAVY COAT.
- MITTENS PROVIDE MORE WARMTH TO YOUR HANDS THAN GLOVES. WEAR A HAT PREFERABLY ONE THAT COVERS YOUR EARS. WEAR A SCARF OVER YOUR MOUTH TO PROTECT YOUR LUNGS.
- WEAR WATERPROOF... INSULATED BOOTS TO KEEP YOUR FEET WARM AND DRY AND TO MAINTAIN YOUR FOOTING ON ICE AND SNOW.
- TAKE BREAKS AND STAY HYDRATED WHEN SHOVELING SNOW.
- IF YOU PLAN ON USING AN ALTERNATE HEATING SOURCE...NEVER USE A STOVE OR OVEN TO HEAT YOUR HOME. KEEP A GLASS OR METAL FIRE SCREEN AROUND THE FIREPLACE AND NEVER LEAVE A FIREPLACE FIRE UNATTENDED. IF USING A SPACE HEATER...FOLLOW THE MANUFACTURERS INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO SAFELY USE THE HEATER. PLACE IT ON A HARD...NONFLAMMABLE SURFACE. TURN THE SPACE HEATER OFF WHEN YOU LEAVE THE ROOM OR GO TO SLEEP. KEEP CHILDREN AND PETS AWAY FROM YOUR SPACE HEATER AND DO NOT USE IT TO DRY CLOTHING.

FROSTBITE OCCURS WHEN SKIN FREEZES RESULTING IN NUMBNESS AND A PALE WHITE APPEARANCE TO THE AFFECTED AREA. SLOWLY RE-WARM THE AFFECTED SKIN.

HYPOTHERMIA IS IDENTIFIED BY UNCONTROLLABLE SHIVERING...SLURRED SPEECH ...DROWSINESS OR DISORIENTATION. IF MEDICAL CARE IS NOT AVAILABLE...WARM THE PERSON WITH A BLANKET AND WARM LIQUIDS. DO NOT TRY TO WARM THE ARMS OR LEGS FIRST...IT DRIVES COLD BLOOD TO THE HEART AND MAY LEAD TO HEART FAILURE.

ON FRIDAY...WE WILL DISCUSS OUTDOOR SAFETY DURING WINTER AND HOW YOU CAN BETTER PREPARE YOURSELF TO MINIMIZE YOUR RISK.

VISIT [GETPREPARED.IN.GOV](https://getprepared.in.gov) FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WINTER SAFETY.

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